

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New Jersey

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

New Jersey

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 8,143,412 (1999 estimate); 7,730,188 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (1990): 79.3% white; 13.4% African American; 0.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 3.5% Asian/Pacific Islander; 3.6% other race; 9.6% Hispanic origin

Politics

- Governor: Christine Todd Whitman
- Attorney General: John J. Farmer, Jr.
- Secretary of State: DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.
- U.S. Senate: Frank Lautenberg (D); Robert Torricelli (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-13 respectively): Robert Andrews, Frank LoBiondo, Jim Saxton, Christopher Smith, Marge Roukema, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bob Franks, Bill Pascrell, Jr., Steven Rothman, Donald Payne, Rodney Frelinghuysen, Rush Holt, Robert Menendez.

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)²
Designated in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA is responsible for Union, Hudson, Essex, Bergen, and Passaic Counties in New Jersey. This NY/NJ region is the Northeast U.S. center for narcotics trafficking. The environment presents an ideal location for the importation of drugs through its two major international airports and several domestic airports; two major railroad complexes and hundreds of miles of subway tracks; various waterfront points of entry; and complex network of highways, bridges, and tunnels.
- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Grantees:³
 - \$99,980 to the City of Paterson
 - \$100,000 to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Westfield
 - \$99,783 to the Newark Fighting Back Partnership, Newark
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁴
 - Newark: The Central and West Wards of Newark were chosen because these areas are the poorest and have the highest rates of drug and alcohol related street crime in the city. 48% of the people living in these areas do not have high school diplomas.
 - Trenton: Selected in 1991 as one of the three original pilot cities, Trenton is the longest running Weed and Seed site in the country. There are 4 target areas within the Trenton site, each located in one of the city's four wards (North, South, East, and West). These areas are among the most distressed in the city. The parks and playgrounds here are often the site of drug trafficking.

- Atlantic City: In 1996, a community health needs assessment report identified substance abuse as one of the major health concerns in Atlantic City.
- Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA)⁵
This agency was created to coordinate statewide services involving alcoholism and drug abuse. The funding for this program comes from the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction fund. The money in this fund is collected from fines levied on convicted drug users and sellers.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 1998 there were 64,011 arrests for drug abuse violations in New Jersey.⁶

Arrests in New Jersey, 1998

Offense	Juveniles (Under 18)	Adults	Total All Ages
Murder	27	241	268
Rape	109	664	773
Robbery	1,408	3,356	4,764
Aggravated Assault	2,507	9,774	12,281
Burglary	2,639	5,692	8,331
Larceny-theft	10,261	25,277	35,538
Motor Vehicle Theft	660	943	1,603
Drug Abuse Violations	9,296	54,715	64,011
DUI	342	29,797	30,139
Liquor Law Violations	4,151	12,667	16,818

- The number of arrests for drug violations increased from 59,053 in 1995 to 64,011 in 1998.⁷

Total Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 1995-98

Drug Type	1995	1996	1997	1998
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	33,207	34,777	37,235	36,617
Marijuana/hashish	23,830	24,447	25,485	24,802
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	585	600	666	712
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	1,431	1,592	2,238	1,880
Grand Total Drug Arrests	59,053	61,416	65,624	64,011

- Of the total arrests for drug violations, 46,897 (73%) were possession/use arrests.⁸

Possession/Use Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 1995-98

Drug Type	1995	1996	1997	1998
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	20,001	20,805	22,670	23,099
Marijuana/hashish	20,112	21,108	21,992	21,755
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	384	423	449	507
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	1,118	1,249	1,925	1,536
Total Possession/Use Arrests	41,615	43,585	47,036	46,897

- During 1998 there were 17,114 arrests in New Jersey for the sale/manufacture of drugs.⁹

Sale/Manufacture Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 1995-98

Drug Type	1995	1996	1997	1998
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	13,206	13,972	14,565	13,518
Marijuana/hashish	3,718	3,339	3,493	3,047
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	201	177	217	205
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	313	343	313	344
Total Sale/Manufacture Arrests	17,438	17,831	18,588	17,114

Drugs

- Cocaine: Cocaine dominates the current market in the New York/New Jersey region. Colombian drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) control the source of the drug while Dominican DTOs control the distribution.¹⁰
- Heroin: Heroin use continues to increase in Newark. There has been a recent reversal in the decline of heroin snorting in favor of injecting in this area.¹¹
- Marijuana: Primary marijuana use among adolescents is increasing in Newark.¹²
- Other Drugs:
 - Law enforcement in New Jersey has seen a substantial increase in the use of “club drugs” such as Ecstasy, ketamine, and GHB.¹³ Also, in Newark, GHB, GBL and ketamine are increasingly reported around rave parties and college campuses.¹⁴
 - Ecstasy: This drug is often found at rave parties, rock concerts and clubs in New Jersey.
 - Khat: This drug, which can produce a 24-hour high as potent as cocaine, is growing in popularity in New Jersey, especially on college campuses. Once on the street, this drug is sold in \$100 bunches or in wholesale loads of \$500 a kilo.¹⁵
 - Reports of LSD use in Newark remained at a relatively low but steady level among youth.¹⁶

Consequences of Use

- During 1998, GBL (gamma-butyrolactone), the precursor to GHB, was involved in 18 medical emergencies in Newark.¹⁷
- Recent reports show that there were 144 cocaine-related deaths reported by Medical Examiners (MEs) in Newark during 1999.¹⁸
- In 1998, MEs mentioned cocaine in 60% (123) of the drug abuse deaths in Newark.¹⁹

Drug Mentions by MEs, Newark, 1995-98

Drug	1995		1996		1997		1998	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Cocaine	160	65.8	144	65.8	114	69.1	123	60.0
Heroin/morphine	144	59.3	119	54.3	105	63.6	109	53.2
Marijuana/hashish	26	10.7	19	8.7	23	13.9	21	10.2
Methadone	12	4.9	11	5.0	7	4.2	13	6.3

- From January to June 1999, there were 6,921 Emergency Department (ED) drug mentions in Newark.²⁰
- At this time, there were 2,258 heroin/morphine mentions reported by EDs in Newark.²¹

Number of Drug Mentions by EDs, Newark, January-June 1999

Cocaine	Heroin/morphine	Marijuana/hashish	Methamphetamine
1,572	2,258	316	1

Juveniles²²

- Approximately half of the New Jersey students surveyed in the fall of 1998 reported substance use other than alcohol at some time in their lives.
- 42.3% of the students surveyed reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, New Jersey, 1998

Substance	Ever Used	Past Month	Past Year, Not Past Month	Not Past Year
Alcohol	78.5%	48.0%	24.0%	6.5%
Marijuana	42.3	21.5	15.4	5.4
Hallucinogens	14.3	4.6	6.0	3.7
Cocaine	7.2	2.6	2.2	2.4
Amphetamines	10.9	3.7	4.2	3.0
Tranquilizers	6.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
Barbiturates	5.8	2.4	1.9	1.5
Heroin	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.3
Inhalants	18.3	5.1	7.5	5.7
Glue	11.0	2.4	2.1	6.5
Cough Medicine	8.5	--	--	--

- 87.7% of those who reported having sniffed glue stated that they first sniffed glue before the 10th grade.

Percent of Students Using Drugs Before 10th Grade

Substance	Percent
Glue	87.7
Inhalants	75.0
Marijuana	68.6
Cocaine	57.2
Amphetamines	54.6
Hallucinogens	52.7
Heroin	51.5

Trafficking and Seizures

- On February 1, 2000, members of the Contraband Enforcement Team (CET) in Newark made one of the largest hashish seizures in U.S. Customs history. This seizure totaled nearly 12 tons. This hashish had been en route to Canada.²³
- A quarter of all Ecstasy seizures in the U.S. occurs at Newark International Airport in New Jersey or JFK Airport in New York. In 1999, inspectors at Newark Airport seized 444,000 Ecstasy tablets. This is a significant increase from the 20,000 seized in 1998. From January through March 31 of 2000, Customs inspectors had already seized 120,000 Ecstasy tablets at Newark Airport. The most recent seizures here have come from flights originating in Paris, France, Switzerland, and Dusseldorf, Germany.²⁴
- Next to New York's JFK airport, New Jersey is the second largest port of entry for the drug khat. Since October 1999, Customs has seized almost 5 tons of the drug at Newark International Airport. This number dwarfs last year's entire seizure record of 3,900 pounds.²⁵
- Since khat is only potent when fresh, there is a rush to get it on the streets. Because of this, khat is smuggled exclusively by airplane passengers or by airfreight.²⁶
- On February 6, 2000 the New Jersey State Police arrested 6 people on drug-related charges. At this time, the State Police seized over 850 kilos of cocaine and approximately 1,900 pounds of marijuana. The cocaine had an estimated wholesale value of \$20.5 million with a street-level distribution value exceeding \$85 million. The marijuana seized is worth more than \$15 million on the street. These drugs were believed to be destined for distribution throughout the New Jersey/NYC area.²⁷

Enforcement

- Drug sniffing dogs at Newark Airport are the first Federal canines trained to sniff out Ecstasy.²⁸
- Northern New Jersey Heroin Trafficking Task Force²⁹
This HIDTA initiative combines local, state, and Federal law enforcement personnel in an effort to dismantle core and secondary trafficking organizations in Essex, Hudson, Union, Bergen, and Passaic Counties.
- As of October 31, 1998, there were 37,167 total full-time law enforcement employees in New Jersey. 29,520 of these employees were officers, and 7,647 were civilians.³⁰

Courts

- During FY98, 37.8% of the offenders charged with Federal offenses in New Jersey had committed a drug offense.³¹
- 44.8% of these offenses involved heroin, 31.8% involved powder cocaine, 13% involved marijuana, 8% involved crack, 1.1% involved methamphetamine, and 0.7% involved another drug.³²
- 98.6% of those convicted of a Federal trafficking offense in New Jersey received a prison sentence. 82.9% of those convicted of simple possession of drugs in New Jersey received probation.³³
- As of March 31, 2000, there were a total of 12 drug courts in New Jersey that had either already been implemented or were being planned.³⁴

Number of Drug Courts, New Jersey, March 31, 2000

County/City	
Camden/Camden	1 operating over 2 years; 1 recently implemented (juv.)
Essex/Newark	2 operating over 2 years
Hudson/Jersey City	1 operating over 2 years (juvenile)
Mercer/Trenton	1 recently implemented
Monmouth/Long Branch	1 recently implemented
Monmouth/Middletown	1 being planned
Ocean/Toms River	1 being planned
Passaic/Patterson	1 operating over 2 years; 1 being planned
Union/Elizabeth	1 recently implemented

Corrections

- On January 11, 1999 there were a total of 30,263 residents in New Jersey State Correctional Institutions and Satellites. 4,763 of these were juveniles held at youth complexes.³⁵
- 64% of all offenders on January 11 were African American, 18% were Hispanic, and 17% were white.³⁶
- 34% of all Department of Corrections residents (all ages) had committed narcotics violations.³⁷
- At the end of 1998 (December 31, 1998), there were 133,227 adults on probation in New Jersey. At this same time, there were 14,557 adults on parole.³⁸

Treatment³⁹

- 58,873 people were admitted as primary clients to New Jersey substance abuse provider agencies in 1998. In 1997 there were 60,742 people admitted to treatment.
- 42% of those admitted in 1998 reported heroin as the primary drug abused, 33% reported alcohol, 13% reported cocaine, and 9% reported marijuana. Other drugs accounted for 2.3% of all admissions.
- Approximately half (52%) of all treatment clients in 1998 were white. Black clients accounted for 33% and Hispanic clients accounted for 13% of the total treatment population.
- Most substance abusers receiving treatment in 1998 reported using their primary drug every day: 63% used the drug daily and 17% used the drug at least once per week.

- 90% of heroin abusers reported daily drug use. Most of these heroin users in treatment inhaled or snorted the drug (60%), while 39% injected the drug as the route of administration.
- 73% of the clients admitted for marijuana treatment were under 25 years old. 40% of those treated for marijuana were younger than 18 years of age. The mean age for clients treated for marijuana was 21.7.
- The mean age at first use of primary drug was 19.8 years old: 14.6 years old for marijuana, 15.9 years old for alcohol, 22.2 years old for cocaine and 23.0 years old for heroin.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² New York/New Jersey HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>

³ Drug-Free Communities Grantee list: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/nj.html>

⁴ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org/northeast.asp>

⁵ Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/gcada/>

⁶ New Jersey State Police, 1998 Uniform Crime Report: <http://www.njsp.org/stats.html>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ New York/New Jersey HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>

¹¹ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume I: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group*, June 1999

¹² Ibid.

¹³ New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Press Release, April 12, 2000: <http://www.state.nj.us/lsp/dcj/releases/club0412.htm>

¹⁴ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume I: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group*, June 1999

¹⁵ On-line news article from New Jersey's *The Star-Ledger*, May 30, 2000

¹⁶ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume I: Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group*, June 1999

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advance Report, December 1999*: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1299ADV/1299adv.html#DrugAbuse>

¹⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/98me_annual.pdf

²⁰ SAMHSA, *Mid-Year 1999 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/DawnMidYr/99mid_year.pdf

²¹ Ibid.

²² New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, *Drug and Alcohol Use Among New Jersey High School Students*, 1999: <http://www.state.nj.us/lsp/dcj/da1999.pdf>

²³ U.S. Customs Service, *U.S. Customs Today*, monthly newsletter, May 2000: <http://www.customs.treas.gov/custoday/may2000/hash.htm>

²⁴ On-line news article, April 24, 2000

²⁵ On-line news article from New Jersey's *The Star-Ledger*, May 30, 2000

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ New Jersey State Police Press Release, February 8, 2000: <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/njsp/newsitem3.htm>

²⁸ On-line news article, April 24, 2000

²⁹ NY/NJ HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>

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- ³⁰ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr>
- ³¹ U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 1998 Federal stats: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/nj98.pdf>
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000
- ³⁵ NJ Department of Corrections, *Offender Characteristics Report*, January 2000: <http://www.state.nj.us/corrections/ocr/98ocr.pdf>
- ³⁶ Ibid.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998*, August 1999: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus98.pdf>
- ³⁹ New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Addiction Services, *1998 Annual Statistical Perspective*: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/as/adadsummary.pdf>

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